- On page 1, before the first paragraph, please add the subheading

A2 -- Field of the Invention --

- On page 1, before the second paragraph, please add the subheading

A3 -- Background of the Invention --

- On page 3, line 15, please add the subheading -- Summary of the Invention --

A4

- On page 12, line 15, please add the subheading -- Brief Description of the

A5 Drawings --;

- On page 12, line 26, please add the subheading -- Detailed Description --

A6

In The Claims

Please delete claims 1-20 and substitute the following new claims 21-35:

A7

21. A process for coupling aromatic monomers, which comprises coupling in a reaction mixture an aromatic monomer having at least one boron derivative functional group selected from the group consisting of a boronic acid group, a boronic ester group and a boraine group, and an aromatic monomer having at least one ractive halide functional group; wherein the reaction mixture comprises a catalytic amount of a catalyst suitable for catalysing the coupling of the aromatic monomers, and an organic base including a tetraalkylammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert the at least one boron derivative functional group into $-BX_3^-$ anionic group(s), wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH.

SUB B7

22. A process for coupling aromatic monomers, which comprises preparing under non-coupling conditions an organic cation salt of an aromatic boronate monomer by the reaction of an aromatic monomer having at least one boron-derivative functional group with an organic base including a tetraalkylammonium entity in an amount sufficient to convert the at least one boron-derivative functional group into boronate anionic group(s) ($-B(X)_3^-$) wherein X is independently selected from the group consisting of F and OH, and then coupling the organic cation salt of the aromatic boronate monomer with an aromatic monomer having at least one reactive halide functional group in a reaction mixture in the presence of a catalyst suitable for catalysing the coupling by elimination of a halide functional group and a boronate anionic group.

23. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein X is OH.

24. A process according to claim 23, wherein at least 1.5 equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

25. A process according to claim 23, wherein at least two equivalents of said organic base per boron-derivative functional group is provided in the reaction mixture.

26. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of tetraalkylammonium carbonates, tetraalkylammonium bicarbonates and alkylammonium hydroxides.

27. A process according to claim 21, wherein the organic base comprises R' R" R"' R"" NOH, wherein R' is a C_1 - C_6 alkyl group, and R", R"' and R"" are each independently hydrogen atoms or C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups.

28. A process according to claim 27, wherein the organic base is selected from the group consisting of $(CH_3)_4NOH$, $(C_2H_5)_4NOH$ and $(C_3H_7)_4NOH$.

29. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the organic base is a tetraalkylammonium carbonate or a tetraalkylammonium bicarbonate.

30. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the organic base is used in combination with an aqueous solution of an inorganic base.

31. A process according to claim 30, wherein the inorganic base is NH_4OH.

32. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein the reaction is carried out in the absence of alkali metal cations.

33. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein at least one of the aromatic monomers is a 2,7(9,9-di-n-octylfluorene).

34. A process according to claim 21 or 22, wherein a solvent which is miscible with water and in which the reactive components are soluble is used.

35. A process according to claim 21 for 22, wherein the catalyst is a palladium catalyst.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 4, 2002

By: _____
Therese A. Hendricks
Reg. No. 30,389